

***Congressman Adler first freshman representative to win the award in more than 20 years***

**Ocean County, NJ** – On Saturday, June 19 2010, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), Department of New Jersey, presented Congressman John Adler (NJ-3) with the "Outstanding Federal Legislator of the Year" award. The "Outstanding Federal Legislator of the Year" award is given to the federal legislator who has demonstrated not only outstanding support for legislation which benefits veterans, but also a commitment to veterans and their families. The NJ VFW, a state chapter of the largest combat veterans association in the United States, presented the Congressman with the award at its Annual Convention at the Wildwood Convention Center.

"Congressman Adler was selected for his strong advocacy for veterans. During his first term, he introduced and cosponsored numerous bills such as Advanced Appropriations for VA Health Care, supported military personnel and their families with quality of life issues and most importantly, as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, demonstrated keen oversight of the VA Health Care system and the problems it encounters. As the State Commander for the Department of New Jersey, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, it is not only a great personal pleasure, but an honor, to have Congressman Adler as our 'VFW Federal Legislator of the Year,'" said NJ VFW Commander Jack Shiverdaker.

"Since going to Washington less than two years ago, Congressman Adler has built a reputation of being a staunch veteran advocate. He has demonstrated a genuine concern for today's fighting men and women in the military and a sincere appreciation for America's veterans," added Bill Thomson, the incoming State Commander of New Jersey's VFW.

"I am humbled to be recognized by the brave men and women who fought overseas to keep our country safe and free," Congressman John Adler said. "Our nation is indebted to those who serve our country. I will continue working to ensure our veterans receive every benefit they deserve."

Since being sworn in, Congressman Adler, the only NJ member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, created and meets regularly with his Veterans Advisory Board. Congressman Adler relies on the input and advice of the Board to benefit the more than 66,000 veterans in his

district. Some of the Congressman's accomplishments on behalf of our veterans are listed below.

- Due to Congressman Adler's efforts, more than 1.5 million New Jersey seniors and veterans received a \$250 economic recovery payment. Only a few weeks into his first term, Congressman Adler fought to include this tax relief in the economic recovery package that passed in February of 2009.
- When news reports exposed the Philadelphia VA Medical Center for mistreating almost 100 veterans, Congressman Adler immediately called for a congressional investigation. Since June, Congressman Adler participated in two Congressional hearings, and introduced legislation to increase oversight and accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Philadelphia VA has since been fined for its actions and the bill has received hearing in the House and Senate.
- After hearing how veterans were denied benefits claims due to rigid filing deadlines, Congressman Adler introduced legislation to help fix the problem. The Fair Access to Veterans Benefits Act would require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims (Veterans Court) to hear appeals by veterans of administrative decisions denying them benefits when circumstances beyond their control – often the very service-related disabilities that entitle them to benefits – render them unable to meet the deadline for filing an appeal.
- When reports circulated that veterans might be billed through private insurance for their service-connected disability treatments, Congressman Adler introduced legislation that would permanently prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs from moving forward on any such proposal.
- Congressman Adler sponsored a resolution to encourage institutions of higher education in the country to seek membership in the Service members Opportunity Colleges Consortium, which helps coordinate postsecondary educational opportunities for members of the Armed Forces, their families, and veterans.

Elected to Congress in 2008, John Adler is the first freshman representative to win the award since his predecessor, Congressman Jim Saxton. His district includes parts of Burlington, Camden and Ocean Counties and the nation's first joint-base.